



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - July 12, 2002

- ***In the West***, isolated showers are providing only minimal relief from historically dry conditions in the ***Four Corners region***. Meanwhile, record heat persists in the ***Great Basin and interior Northwest***, hastening winter wheat maturation but boosting irrigation demands and severely stressing dryland summer crops.
- ***On the Plains***, showers continue to aid dryland summer crops from ***Oklahoma southward***, but extremely dry conditions persist on the ***central High Plains***. Meanwhile, record heat is increasing stress on reproductive, spring-sown grains on the ***northern High Plains***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 100 to 105 degrees F.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, mild weather (today's highs are forecast to range from 75 to 85 degrees F) favors reproductive corn and soybeans, although soil moisture shortages persist in ***western portions of the region***.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers are boosting soil moisture reserves, reducing irrigation demands, and benefiting rain-fed summer crops.

Outlook: During the weekend, mostly dry weather and record-breaking heat will persist in the ***West***, while unseasonably cool, dry air will settle across the ***central and eastern U.S.*** The best chance for rain will be across the ***Southeast, Delta, and southern Plains***, where an old front will linger. Scattered monsoon showers may provide some heat relief in the ***Southwest***. By early next week, cooler air and periods of rain will signal and end to the heat wave across the ***Pacific Northwest***, while warmer weather will gradually return to the ***northern Plains and Great Lakes region***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 17-21 calls for below-normal temperatures in the ***southern Plains, eastern Great Lakes region, and New England***, while warmer-than-normal weather is likely in the ***northern Plains and western Corn Belt***. Rainfall is expected to be above normal on the ***northern and southern Plains***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected from the ***Tennessee Valley to the Mid-Atlantic region***.

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